

July 25, 2019

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker  
Governor, State of Illinois  
James R. Thompson Center  
100 W. Randolph, Suite 16-100  
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Pritzker,

As members of the Transform Illinois Coalition, we respectfully request that you sign into law of a specific piece of legislation, HB 348, which provides local officials and residents with the ability to determine the size and cost of government they wish to support. Specifically, this legislation allows for a democratic process to align County and Township services together, producing more effective and cost-efficient outcomes for citizens. The democratic process is designed as follows:

- The Board of Trustees of any township located in McHenry County may submit a proposition to dissolve the township to the township electors; or
- Township electors may petition for a referendum to dissolve a township, consolidating services with the county.

Transform Illinois, created in 2014, is committed to research, advocacy, legislative and policy implementation activities that will improve the effectiveness of government in Illinois. We believes this piece of legislation will provide more efficient services for citizens in the following ways:

**More effective service delivery.** By eliminating units of government that perform the same task, services can be streamlined. For example, eliminating Township road districts will allow for a road maintenance schedule that is complete and not fragmented. Road quality will also be evenly distributed. In addition, the legislation abolishes road districts under 15 miles which would be absorbed by the County, thereby coordinating activities such as ~~and~~ paving or salting in a more efficient manner without fragmented units of government.

**Reducing administrative costs.** Administrative services can be combined at the County level to take advantage of economies of scale. Cost efficiencies can be reflected in tax savings or in more effective service levels at the County. HB 348 transfers all Township or district assets and liabilities to the County who can easily incorporate discreet functions of a Township into its existing operations. It also limits extensions of specified property tax levies to 90% of the original property tax levy and within the boundaries of the dissolved township, resulting in property tax savings.

**Access to residents.** Residents are more aware of their local or county government. Services will be more visible to citizens as they can contact their County office directly to address a wider variety of services instead of trying to figure out which unit of government is responsible for any given service.

We hope you agree that HB 348 could be a model for future consolidation of single purpose units of government and township governments throughout Illinois.

Sincerely,



DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin  
Metropolitan Planning Council  
Taxpayers' Federation of Illinois  
CHANGE Illinois  
Better Government Association

The Civic Federation  
Region 1 Planning Council  
League of Women Voters of Illinois  
Metropolitan Mayors Caucus  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce